

February 9, 2005

Mr. Mark E. Warner, Site Vice President
c/o James M. Peschel
Seabrook Station
FPL Energy Seabrook, LLC
P. O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION BULLETIN 2003-02,
"LEAKAGE FROM REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL LOWER HEAD
PENETRATIONS AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY
INTEGRITY," SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1 - (TAC NO. MC0563)

Dear Mr. Warner:

On August 21, 2003, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued NRC Bulletin 2003-02, "Leakage from Reactor Pressure Vessel Lower Head Penetrations and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity." This bulletin informed addressees that current methods of inspecting the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) lower heads may need to be supplemented with bare-metal visual inspections in order to detect reactor coolant pressure boundary leakage. The bulletin also requested these addressees to provide the NRC with information related to inspections that have been performed to verify the integrity of the RPV lower head penetrations.

The bulletin requested that addressees provide a description of the RPV lower head penetration inspection program that would be implemented at their respective plants during the next and subsequent refueling outages. This description was to include the extent of the inspection, the inspection methods to be used, the qualification standards for the inspection methods, the process used to resolve the source of findings of boric acid deposits or corrosion, the inspection documentation to be generated, and the basis for concluding that their plant satisfied applicable regulatory requirements related to the structural and leakage integrity of the RPV lower head penetrations.

By letter dated September 19, 2003, FPL Energy Seabrook, LLC (FPL) provided its response to this request for Seabrook Station (Seabrook), Unit No. 1. FPL indicated it planned to perform a bare-metal visual examination of all 58 RPV lower head penetrations, including 100 percent of the circumference of each penetration as it enters the RPV lower head, during the fall 2003 refueling outage. Regarding subsequent refueling outages beyond the fall 2003 outage, FPL indicated that the examination scope, when performed, will include all 58 RPV lower head penetrations, including 100 percent of the circumference of each penetration as it enters the RPV lower head. The NRC staff notes that there are a number of ongoing industry and NRC staff activities related to developing criteria for RPV lower head penetration inspections. The NRC staff expects that the criteria for these inspections will involve periodic bare-metal visual examinations or their equivalent.

The bulletin also requested that addressees provide a summary of the RPV lower head penetration inspection that was performed at their plants, the extent of the inspection and the methods used, a description of the as-found condition of the lower head, any findings of relevant indications of through-wall leakage, and a summary of the disposition of any findings of boric acid deposits and any corrective actions taken as a result of indications found.

By letter dated December 18, 2003, FPL provided a summary of its inspection results at Seabrook, Unit No. 1. FPL reported it had performed a 360-degree bare-metal visual examination on all 58 RPV lower head penetrations. In addition, a bare-metal visual examination was performed on the RPV lower surface. FPL did not observe any evidence of RPV lower head penetration leakage or RPV lower head surface metal degradation.

Based on its review of FPL's responses to NRC Bulletin 2003-02, the NRC staff finds that, for Seabrook, Unit No. 1, FPL has provided the reporting information requested by the bulletin. Accordingly, TAC No. MC0563 is closed for Seabrook, Unit No. 1.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor Nerses, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443

cc: See next page

The bulletin also requested that addressees provide a summary of the RPV lower head penetration inspection that was performed at their plants, the extent of the inspection and the methods used, a description of the as-found condition of the lower head, any findings of relevant indications of through-wall leakage, and a summary of the disposition of any findings of boric acid deposits and any corrective actions taken as a result of indications found.

By letter dated December 18, 2003, FPL provided a summary of its inspection results at Seabrook, Unit No. 1. FPL reported it had performed a 360-degree bare-metal visual examination on all 58 RPV lower head penetrations. In addition, a bare-metal visual examination was performed on the RPV lower surface. FPL did not observe any evidence of RPV lower head penetration leakage or RPV lower head surface metal degradation.

Based on its review of FPL's responses to NRC Bulletin 2003-02, the NRC staff finds that, for Seabrook, Unit No. 1, FPL has provided the reporting information requested by the bulletin. Accordingly, TAC No. MC0563 is closed for Seabrook, Unit No. 1.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor Nerses, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-443

cc: See next page

Distribution:

PUBLIC	SMonarque	RGramm	OGC
PDI-2 RF	VNerses	LMarsh	JNakoski
GCherukenki	ESullivan	DRoberts	

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML050320193

OFFICE	PDI-2/PM	PDI-2/LA	LPM	EMCB	PDI-2/SC
NAME	VNerses	CRaynor	SMonarque	ESullivan	DRoberts
DATE	2/3/05	2/3/05	1/10/05	1/12/05	2/8/05

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1

cc:

Mr. J. A. Stall
Senior Vice President, Nuclear and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Florida Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 14000
Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420

Mr. Peter Brann
Assistant Attorney General
State House, Station #6
Augusta, ME 04333

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Seabrook Nuclear Power Station
P.O. Box 1149
Seabrook, NH 03874

Town of Exeter
10 Front Street
Exeter, NH 03823

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Board of Selectmen
Town of Amesbury
Town Hall
Amesbury, MA 01913

Ms. Deborah Bell
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region I
J.W. McCormack P.O. &
Courthouse Building, Room 401
Boston, MA 02109

Mr. Tom Crimmins
Polestar Applied Technology
One First Street, Suite 4
Los Altos, CA 94019

Mr. Stephen McGrail, Director
ATTN: James Muckerheide
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
400 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01702-5399

Philip T. McLaughlin, Attorney General
Steven M. Houran, Deputy Attorney
General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

Mr. Bruce Cheney, Director
New Hampshire Office of Emergency
Management
State Office Park South
107 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Mr. Gene F. St. Pierre
Station Director
Seabrook Station
FPL Energy Seabrook, LLC
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

Mr. M. S. Ross, Managing Attorney
Florida Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 14000
Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420

Mr. Rajiv S. Kundalkar
Vice President - Nuclear Engineering
Florida Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 14000
Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420

James M. Peschel
Regulatory Programs Manager
Seabrook Station
FPL Energy Seabrook, LLC
PO Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1

cc:

David Moore
Vice President, Nuclear Operations Support
Florida Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 14000
Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420

Marjan Mashhadi
Senior Attorney
Florida Power & Light Company
801 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Suite 220
Washington, DC 20004